

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: E:DRHINTON
APPROVED BY: E:CWROBINSON
S/S-MR ORTIZ
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 177299 TOSEC 080041

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJ: EPB REQUEST FOR STATE POSITION ON FOUR KEY
MURPHY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FOLLOWING LETTER, CLEARED BY BOB INGERSOLL, LARRY EAGLEBURGER, AND TOM ENDERS, IF APPROVED BY YOU, WOULD ENABLE ME RESPOND TO REITERATED WHITE HOUSE REQUEST FOR STATE VIEWS ON FOUR KEY MURPHY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTEREST TO EPB IN GENERAL AND BILL SEIDMAN IN PARTICULAR. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WITH THIS, BUT SOMEHOW MEMO ENCLOSING LETTER SUBMITTED TO YOU JULY 21 BY D, E, AND M IS STILL PENDING AND DELAY HERE MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT MAINTAIN KIND OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH EPB YOU ASKED ME TO ASSURE. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR APPROVAL OR DESIRED CHANGES SOONEST.

"DEAR BILL:

- SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS AUTHORIZED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT WE SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE THE FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS
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CONTAINED IN THE MURPHY COMMISSION REPORT DEALING WITH RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS PERTAINING TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY. IN SO ADVISING YOU I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO TAKE

ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON SOME SPECIFIC ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLINING OUR SUPPORT FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. IT IS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT THE RECOMMENDED SENIOR ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT TO BE CHARGED WITH THE SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF FUNCTION AND ECONOMIC POLICY, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, REFERS ESSENTIALLY TO EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS AND DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY. WHILE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THIS ASSISTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OR BE REPRESENTED IN RELEVANT MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE DOMESTIC POLICY MAKING BODIES (SUCH AS THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL, THE TROIKA, OR THE ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD) I WOULD NOTE THAT PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS OF THE NSC IS A MATTER FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNDERWAY OVERALL REVIEW OF THE MURPHY COMMISSION REPORT. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD YOURSELF WISH TO CONSIDER MOST CAREFULLY THE ADVISABILITY OF AN ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT SERVING AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE PROPOSED JOINT SUB-COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY. IT TENDS TO BE OUR VIEW THAT A LOWER RANKING OFFICIAL MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY SERVE AS STAFF DIRECTOR.

2. WHILE WE FAVOR THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY ADVISORY BOARD, WE DO SO ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEVOTE THE NECESSARY TIME TO MEETING WITH THE BOARD. IF THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE PRACTICAL, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CREATE YET ANOTHER INSTITUTION WHICH ASSUREDLY WOULD HAVE PRIVATE SECTOR HIGH QUALITY MEMBERSHIP. IT HAS BEEN OUR OBSERVATION THAT UNLESS THE MEMBERS OF SUCH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY BOARDS

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ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE INDEED RENDERING A SERVICE TO THE PRESIDENT, THE CREATION OF SUCH BOARDS FAR FROM BENEFITTING THE NATION, ONLY LEADS TO ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS. ALSO I WOULD OBSERVE THAT WHILE SUCH A BOARD MIGHT REPLACE SOME OF THE EXISTING ADVISORY GROUPS DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT IT WOULD BE AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR MANY OF THEM.

3. WITH RESPECT TO CONSTITUTION OF AN INDEPENDENT STUDY GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS,

IT IS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT THE VIEWS OF THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS WOULD BE VIRTUALLY
DETERMINING. ALSO THE QUESTION OF HOW SUCH A GROUP
WOULD RELATE TO THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED
FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

4. IN SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED JOINT SUB-COUNCIL OF
THE NSC, THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL AND THE ECONOMIC POLICY
BOARD TO HANDLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS,
WE ASSUME THAT A PRAGMATIC MEANS WOULD BE DEVELOPED
TO CONSIDER ISSUES UNRESOLVED BY THIS SUB-CABINET
LEVEL GROUP. WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT UNLESS AND
UNTIL CIEP WERE ABOLISHED ITS STAFF SHOULD IN EFFECT
PROVIDE THE BASIC STAFF FOR THE JOINT SUB-COUNCIL.

- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE ISSUES
OR OUR VIEWS, I AM AT YOUR DISPOSITION FOR
DISCUSSION OR FURTHER ELABORATION. SINCERELY,
CHARLES W. ROBINSON.

THE HONORABLE

- L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN,
- ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
- - FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
- - THE WHITE HOUSE
- - WASHINGTON, D.C.

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